

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 500
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend officer D'Mitri Cannon
upon his meritorious service to the D.A.R.E.
program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their considerable talents to lead young people away from the deleterious effects of drug abuse and toward more positive endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Officer D'Mitri Cannon, a 12-year veteran of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, is most assuredly one such deserving public servant; and

WHEREAS, one of the first certified officers in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, Officer Cannon is trained and certified to teach 6th grade core, junior high school and parent curriculums in the program; and

WHEREAS, Officer Cannon serves with acumen and alacrity as the D.A.R.E. instructor for all sixth grade students in Metropolitan-Nashville public schools; and

WHEREAS, a former instructor for new officer training in the statewide Project D.A.R.E. program, Officer Cannon served astutely and with distinction from 1990-91 as president of the Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Association, the statewide organization of more than 290 D.A.R.E. officers which includes city police officers and Tennessee Highway patrolmen from across the state; and

WHEREAS, in his eight years of stellar participation in the D.A.R.E. program, Officer Cannon has been directly responsible for the graduation of over 6,000 students from the program; and

WHEREAS, Officer Cannon also has 19 years of professional experience as a security expert, escort and bodyguard, including 17 years as head of security, studio host and bodyguard for Bobby Jones and New Life Singers; and

WHEREAS, a devoted 25-year student of the martial arts, Officer Cannon holds a 4th Dan Black Belt, and is registered with the World TaeKwonDo Federation and Korean TaeKwonDo Association; and

WHEREAS, as a Black Belt competitor, Officer Cannon has won Black Belt Grand Championships in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Ohio, Missouri and Alabama; and

WHEREAS, for two years, he served brilliantly as the Southeastern United States A.A.U. Light Heavyweight Black Belt Champion and he capably represented the region in the U.S. National A.A.U. TaeKwonDo Championships held in Washington, D.C. (1978) and Dayton, Ohio (1979); and

WHEREAS, from 1992-94, Officer Cannon served proficiently and with purpose as the Commissioner of the Martial Arts Competition for Tennessee's Sportsfest; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman also has 21 years of teaching experience with the Metropolitan-Nashville Schools, Police Academy and Board of Parks and Recreation, Tennessee State University, Volunteer State Community College and Meharry Medical College; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend officer D'Mitri Cannon upon his meritorious service to the D.A.R.E. program, salute his unremitting dedication to the welfare of our young people, and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.